

## Ranking Tool Summary for FY2013 - Forestland (Draft)

### Description:

New England/New York Forestry Initiative - FY2013.

### Land Uses:

Forest, Grazed Forest, Watershed Protection, Wildlife

### Efficiency Score:

Scoring Multiplier: 1000.000

### Optional Notes:

### National Priorities:

Scoring Multiplier: 1.000

Questions:

Number	Question	Points
1	a. Is the program application to support the development of a Conservation Activity Plan (CAP)? If answer is "Yes", do not answer any other national level questions. If answer is "No", proceed with evaluation to address the remaining questions in this section.	250
2	a. Meet regulatory requirements relating to animal feeding operations, or proactively avoid the need for regulatory measures?	15
2	b. Reduce sediment, nutrients or pesticides from agricultural operations located within a field that adjoins a designated "impaired water body" (TMDL, 303d, etc.)?	15
2	c. Reduce sediment, nutrients or pesticides from agricultural operations located within a field that adjoins a "non-impaired water body"?	5
3	a. Decrease aquifer overdraft?	15
3	b. Conserve water from irrigation system improvements and saved water will be available for other beneficial uses?	10
3	c. Conserve water in an area where the applicant participates in a geographically established or watershed-wide project?	5
4	a. Meet on-farm regulatory requirements relating to air quality or proactively avoid the need for regulatory measures?	15
4	b. Reduce on-farm generated green house gases such as CO <sub>2</sub> (Carbon Dioxide), CH <sub>4</sub> (Methane), and N <sub>2</sub> O (Nitrous Oxide)?	15
4	c. Increase on-farm carbon sequestration?	5
5	a. Reduce erosion to tolerable limits (Soil "T")?	15
5	b. Improve soil tilth, organic matter, structure, health, etc.?	5
6	a. Benefit on-farm habitat associated with threatened and endangered, at-risk, candidate, or species of concern as identified in a State wildlife plan?	15
6	b. Help retain wildlife and plant habitat on land exiting the Conservation Reserve Program (CRP)?	10
7	a. Help manage or control noxious or invasive plant species on non-cropland?	10
7	b. Increase, or improve habitat to benefit pollinator or other targeted wildlife species?	10
7	c. Properly dispose of livestock carcasses?	5
7	d. Are identified in an Integrated Pest Management plan?	10
7	e. Are identified in a Nutrient Management plan?	10

7	f. Apply principles of adaptive nutrient management?	5
8	a. Reduce energy consumption on the agricultural operation?	15
8	b. Increase on-farm energy efficiency with practices and improvements identified in an approved energy audit equivalent to criteria required in Ag EMP (122,124)?	10
8	c. Assist in implementing energy conservation measures that also reduce greenhouse gas emissions and other air pollutants?	10
9	a. Implementation of all conservation practices scheduled in the contract on the CPA-1155 within three years of date of obligation?	10
9	b. Improvement of existing conservation practices or conservation systems already in place at the time the application is accepted?	5
9	c. Implementation of practice(s) which will complete an existing conservation system or suite of practices?	5
Total Points		500

### State Issues:

Scoring Multiplier: 1.000

Questions:

Sub-heading Number	Question Number	Question	Points
1		NEW ENGLAND PRIORITY FOREST AREAS - The proposed project is located within one of the following (pick only one if the areas overlap):	
	1	a) Connecticut River Watershed (NH, VT, CT, MA)	75
	1	b) Quabbin to Cardigan Region (NH/MA)	75
	1	c) Last Green Valley focus area (MA/CT)	75
2		INTERIOR FOREST SPECIES PERSISTENCE - Is the proposed project located within:	
	2	BioMap 2 Forest Core AND the proposed practice(s) will restore, maintain or enhance late successional forest characteristics?	50
3		STATE PRIORITY HABITAT - The greatest economic portion of the proposed project entails:	
	3	a) Pitch pine-scrub oak restoration or management; Shrubland-young forest restoration or management, or wildlife enhancement in the forest?	50
	3	b) Invasive species control, oak regeneration practices; and or other forestry production practices?	35
4		HABITAT IMPROVEMENT - The MA Habitat Assessment score for the existing and planned condition increased by:	
	4	a) More than 0.5 points?	50
	4	b) Between 0.3 and 0.5 points?	35
	4	c) Less than 0.3 points?	5
5		SPECIES SPECIFIC HABITAT - Is the proposed project located within:	
	5	a) NHESP Priority Habitat AND the proposed practice(s) will benefit the listed species?	50
	5	b) BioMap2 Landscape block AND the practice(s) will restore, maintain or enhance functional corridors to conserve large-area dependent species?	50
6		LIKELIHOOD OF SUCCESS - For proposed wildlife projects, the plan:	
	6	Has substantial limitations that will likely impact success?	-150
Maximum Points:			400
Total Points			

### Local Issues:

Scoring Multiplier: 1.000

Questions:

Sub-heading Number	Question Number	Question	Points
	1	Is the proposed project located within 1/2 mile to a state wildlife management area, local, private, or non-governmental protected open space that provides quality habitat?	40
	2	Is the proposed project an appropriate scale for the targeted species (e.g., 5 acres for shrubland, young forest species, etc.)?	50
	3	Will the proposed project further the participant's implementation of their forest management plan?	30
	4	Are 2 or more resource concerns being addressed by the proposed project?	30
5		SPECIES BENEFITED: The proposed project will:	
	5	a) Benefit >5 species in greatest need of conservation or WHIP listed species? (Document in conservation plan)	75
	5	b) Benefit 1 to 5 species in greatest need of conservation or WHIP listed species? (Document in conservation plan)	50
6		HABITAT PERSISTENCE: The project location is designated as:	
	6	a) Open Space in perpetuity?	75
	6	b) Open Space for a limited time?	50
7		DOES ANY OF THE FOLLOWING APPLY:	
	7	a) The applicant has never had a Conservation Program Contract.	25
	7	b) The applicant has CANCELLED more than one Conservation Program Contract funded through the 2002 or 2008 Farm Bill.	-25
	7	c) The applicant is currently OUT OF COMPLIANCE on an active Conservation Program Contract.	-50
	7	d) NRCS has TERMINATED a Conservation Program Contract held by the applicant for non-compliance or cause.	-100
		Maximum Points: Total Points	250